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United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Protecting Your Stone Fruit:

A Commodity-Based Pest Survey



The Commodity-Based Approach

Commodity-based surveying is a comprehensive approach used to monitor simultaneously for multiple insects and diseases that can threaten a given commodity. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its State cooperators are applying this approach to exotic pests of stone fruit.

APHIS developed and adopted this preventive method to help growers and industry better manage risks associated with exotic pest outbreaks.

Unlike a traditional survey, which focuses on a single pest or disease, the commodity-based



Jack Dykinga, USDA

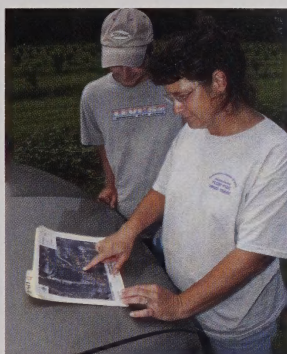
survey casts a wider net to detect as many high-risk pests as possible. The result is an efficient survey process that provides a comprehensive snapshot of exotic pest threats, or the absence of such threats, within an industry. It allows growers and agriculture officials to be proactive—detecting pests early, responding quickly, and keeping commerce and trade open.

Commodity-based surveying has proved invaluable in protecting growers and their operations across a variety of tree and field crops.

Your Participation Matters

Your participation in the commodity-based survey can go a long way in protecting your operation and the crop investment upon which your livelihood depends. By getting involved, you help support early pest detection and response efforts, the benefits of which are tremendous—short and long term. Early detection and response helps to:

- Quickly mitigate pests and the related risks, minimizing large-scale crop damage.
- Protect industry access to markets—at home and abroad.



R. Anson Eaglin, USDA

- Prevent the need for more dramatic measures, such as quarantine and plant removal.
- Allow consumers to enjoy continued access to affordable stone fruits.

Through your participation, APHIS is able to protect the value of stone fruit crops and the industry as a whole more effectively.

A Cooperative Effort

By joining the survey, you can take an active part in shaping how the multi-pronged approach is implemented and optimized in your area. Surveyors work closely with you throughout the survey process, from the first conversation about how the survey works, to establishing trap locations, to monitoring for pests and determining if they're present.



Peggy Greb, USDA

In the event that an exotic pest is detected, APHIS, State, and industry partners will continue to work with you and other growers to evaluate the situation and possible risks. If necessary, an appropriate response plan is created and quickly implemented to help mitigate pests and the risk to the stone fruit crop and industry. A rapid response to an early detection not only protects a grower's total operation, but also may eliminate the need for costly and lengthy treatment programs.

The Survey: What It Covers

The specific stone fruit crops surveyed and the list of targeted pests and diseases—such as plum pox virus, peach fruit fly, and light brown apple moth—may change from year to year. For the most current information, visit the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Web site at <http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/stonefruit>.

CAPS conducts science-based national and State surveys that target specific exotic plant pests, diseases, and weeds identified as economic and



Brian Prechtel, USDA

environmental threats to U.S. agriculture and/or the environment. USDA is the primary funding source for CAPS activities, providing funds to State departments of agriculture, universities, and other entities through cooperative agreements. The program strengthens APHIS' emergency preparedness through its efforts to discover these pests before they spread and become plant health emergencies.

Help Protect Stone Fruit

To join the survey effort, or simply learn more about it, contact your APHIS State Plant Health Director or your State Plant Regulatory Official. Contact information is listed online at:

- www.aphis.usda.gov/StateOffices
- www.nationalplantboard.org/member/index.html

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